

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are now pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled herein, thus this rejection has been rendered moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takizawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,357,849). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has considered that " $D \sin \theta$ " of Takizawa et al. is the distance between the discharge nozzles in the direction of movement of the discharge head. However, " D " of Takizawa et al. is the distance between the discharge nozzles in the direction orthogonal to the movement of the discharge head (see Fig. 2), so " $D \sin \theta$ " is the distance between the discharge nozzles in the direction of the width of the laser beam. In addition, since Takizawa et al. does not teach the diameter of the ink droplets, Takizawa et al. does not teach that the distance between the discharge nozzles in the direction of movement of the discharge head is greater than the sum of half the diameter of the laser beam and half the diameter of the ink droplets, rather Fig. 22 of

Takizawa et al. shows that half of the diameter of the laser beam is greater than half of the diameter of the ink droplet.

That is, the feature of the present invention, which is given by the expression " $D/2 + d/2 \leq L$ ", is not taught by Takizawa et al. Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated by Takizawa et al. Therefore, the application is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference and should be allowed.

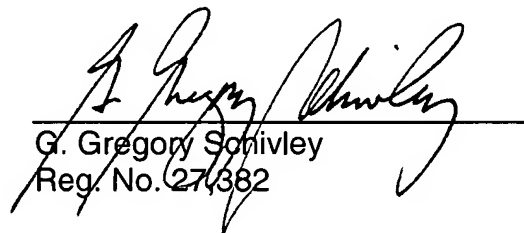
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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